

nominis umbra," who have never heard this eloquent preacher at St. Paul's or at Oxford, cannot do better than make a beginning with this volume, which is a philosophical exposition of the orthodox belief of the day, by one who has read and thought. These sermons, however, are no mere voice from a cloister. There is always a practical application to every-day life in all that Canon Liddon says. It is one of the sources of his power that mundane matters, such as politics, are often the subjects of his discourses. When it is added that his style is perfectly polished and that he is master of a keen sarcastic humour, his popularity as a preacher will be understood.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

SIR,—I crave permission to urge on parents and others, through your journal, the importance of carefully instructing the young in the English language. But a few days back a lady informed me that she was so tired she wanted to *lay* down. This error is very prevalent among people supposed to be educated. Also, I rather frequently hear persons say that they came *for* to see some one. This expression, I admit, is not ungrammatical. It is found in Scripture, but like the word "afear'd," which has Shakspearian authority, it is antiquated, and has long since been discarded. We have no body like the French Academy to decide, from time to time, what forms and idioms are to pass current among us, but it is very easy to avoid obsolete expressions as well as downright grammatical mistakes. The other day I heard a daughter of wealthy parents say that her mother was *real sick*. This is, I think, an Americanism, but it is surely an error, since the adjective is made to play the part of an adverb. Another person remarked that on such a day he *was that* ill, etc., an abbreviation, I presume, but most uncouth and objectionable. I admit that a certain element of carelessness in such matters enters into our natural constitution, so that the best English scholars make slips at times in conversation, and even in public speaking. In this respect we contrast conspicuously with the French, whose conversation is a marvel of accuracy and precision. But though all of us may at times be slipshod, in some instances, from heedlessness rather than ignorance, it is surely important that the rising generation should become masters of our rich and noble language. As a help to this end, I would suggest a very simple plan, which has been tried with great success. It is to encourage original composition. The young at school or at home should write to their parents or teachers frequent letters, in which they should narrate in their own words the events which have occurred in